NEWS RELEASE

FROM THE LOYOLA OF MONTREAL
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Loyola confrontation took a turn towards a possible entente today, with significant developments on two major fronts.

The developments:

-- A proposal by the Loyola Senate's executive committee that a 13-man task force be set up immediately to recommend how the Academic Senate be reconstituted; and

-- The lifting of the disciplinary probation imposed on Students' Association President Marcel Nouvet to allow him to campaign actively in the November 27 student elections.

The proposal to form a 13-man task force to study and suggest how the Senate be reconstituted was put forward by the Senate's executive committee, with a request that senators, faculty and students respond before Saturday noon.

The task force would receive briefs, conduct open hearings and encourage the participation of the entire Loyola community. It would be required to submit its final recommendations between January 15 and February 1.

The study group would be composed of four senators elected by the Senate itself; four faculty representatives, with each faculty -- Arts, Science, Commerce and Engineering -- electing one; and four student

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members, with each faculty again electing one representative. Chairman of the force would be Very Rev. P. G. Malone, S.J., president of Loyola. He would vote only in the case of a tie.

Loyola's board of trustees already had decided to set up a commission on university government to determine what changes are desirable to render Loyola's present structures more suited to the contemporary university.

"The Senate's executive committee has resolved to propose a separate task force immediately because there is special interest in the composition of the Senate," President Malone declared.

In regard to the Nouvet case, he said the Senate's executive committee had voted to lift the probation imposed on Nouvet and four other students "to allow democracy to function fully."

The five students were placed on probation November 12 for an indefinite period after they participated in a disruptive sit-in in the administration building. The Senate had warned November 6 that any further disruption of academic areas would be penalized.

Probation means a student "may not participate in, or be an observer at, any activity at Loyola campus except to fulfill those requirements directly connected with the courses in which they are registered."

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Violation of the probationary status opens a student to suspension or expulsion from the college.

Since the sit-in disturbance was ruled in contempt of the Senate's resolution 6992 on disruptions, the Senate asked its nominating committee to appoint a three-man -- one administrator, one student and one faculty member -- senatorial board to hear the charges against the five students, according to the procedures laid down by the Senate itself for proceedings in the student court.

Named to the hearing board were Douglas Potvin, director of the evening division; Richard Stock, a student; and Prof. Joseph Tascone, chairman of the sociology department. All three are members of the Senate.

Nouvet and the other students on probation were advised that the hearing board had been set up and would meet shortly to establish a date for the hearing.

Immediately after, Nouvet requested that the hearing board adjourn sine die "without prejudice to due processes". The Executive Committee promptly concurred.

Loyola spokesmen made it clear that the adjournment does not in any way imply the charges have been dropped.

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Nouvet is seeking a new mandate as president of the Students' Association after having resigned.

Had the probation not been lifted, he could not have campaigned on campus without opening himself to possible suspension or even expulsion.

The Senate's executive committee specified in lifting the probation that it could be re-imposed in the event Senate resolution 6992 is violated anew.

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